

Message Text

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SUBJ: EDITORIAL REACTION TO UNGA VOTE ON CYPRUS RESOLUTION

REF: A. ATHENS 9130; B. ATHENS 9123

1. IN ADDITION TO THE STRAIGHT NEWS-REPORTING COVERAGE CITED REFTELS, THE WEEKEND PRESS CARRIED A NUMBER OF EDITORIALS ON THE UNGA VOTE ON THE CYPRUS RESOLUTION. THESE PIECES WERE GENERALLY POSITIVE IN TONE, E.G. THE VOTE REPRESENTED A VICTORY FOR THE GREEKS AND GREEK-CYPRIOIS AND HAS RESULTED IN THE ISOLATION OF TURKEY. SEVERAL PIECES COMMENTED AS WELL ON THE U.S. ABSTENTION, NOTING INTER ALIA THAT IT WAS BASED ON CURIOUS LOGIC. IN TWO INSTANCES, ASSERTIONS WERE MADE THAT BY VIRTUE OF THE U.S. ABSTENTION, SECRETARY KISSINGER CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN IMPARTIAL MEDIATOR IN THE FUTURE.

2. A SAMPLING OF THESE EDITORIALS FOLLOWS:
ETHNIKOS KYRIX (CONSERVATIVE, INDEPENDENT) ON
NOVEMBER 22 POINTED OUT THAT THE LOPSIDED NATURE OF
THE VOTE DEMONSTRATED THAT MOST NATIONS CLEARLY RECOGNIZE
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WHERE JUSTICE LIES IN THE CYPRUS DISPUTE; ACCORDINGLY,

DESPITE THE SUPPORT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, THE TURKS MUST REALIZE THEY CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY COMBAT THE REST OF THE WORLD ON THIS ISSUE. VRADYNI (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) OF THE SAME DATE STRUCK A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT TURKEY WILL NOW RECOGNIZE ITS ISOLATED POSITION AND WILL ACT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS CAN SOON RESUME IN A GOOD SPIRIT AND A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WILL BE REACHED. ELEFTHEROTYPIA (LEFT-OF-CENTER, ANTI-U.S.) ON NOVEMBER 22 CATEGORIZED THE NOTE AS A "SLAP IN THE FACE" TO BOTH TURKEY AND THE U.S., WHILE ATHINAIKI (LEFT-OF-CENTER, PRO PASOK) THE SAME DAY ASSERTED THAT THE VOTE CONSTITUTED AN EXPRESSION OF THE "CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD.)

3. ESTIA (ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE) CATEGORIZED THE VOTE AS A GREAT VICTORY BUT WARNED THAT BOTH THE GREEKS AND GREEK-CYPRIOTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO USE THEIR SKILL AND CAPABILITIES TO SEE TO IT THAT THE RESOLUTION IS ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED. RIZOSPASTIS (COMMUNIST) ON NOVEMBER 22 STATED THAT THE VOTE SHOWED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AN UN-BIASED MEDIATOR ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, A THEME ECHOED TWO DAYS LATTER BY ATHINAIKI. FINALLY, BOTH ACROPOLIS (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) AND KATHIMERINI (INDEPENDENT PRO-GOVERNMENT) ON NOVEMBER 24 TOOK NOTE OF THE U.S. POSITION JUSTIFYING ITS ABSTENTION AND FOUND IT LACKING. KATHIMERINI CHARACTERIZED THE USG EXPLANATION OF ITS ABSTENTION AS "AN AMUSING JUSTIFICATION INSPIRED BY ITS OWN PERPLEXITY".
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